The Poet Who Buys Words

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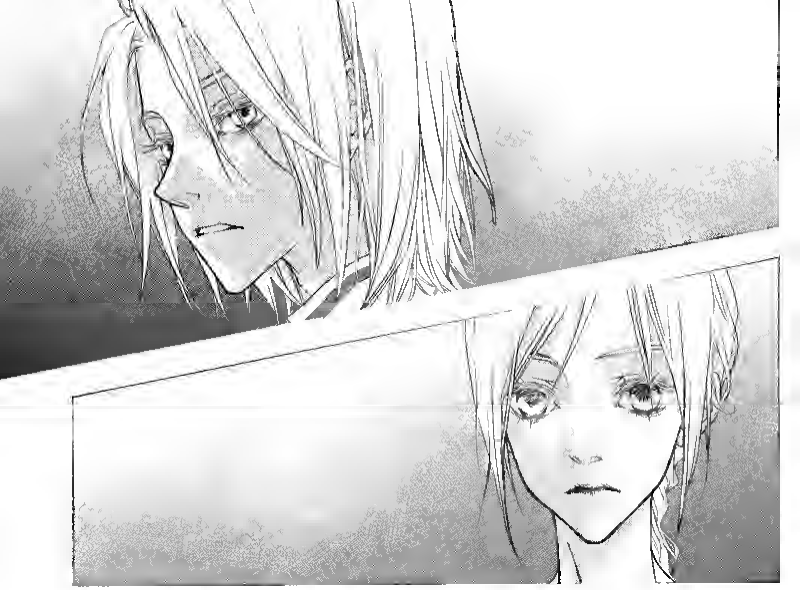
UM JUNG HYUN

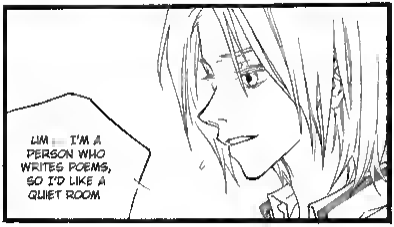
A flower or a tree pattern on a person's body...
...means that there's a gardener in the garden.

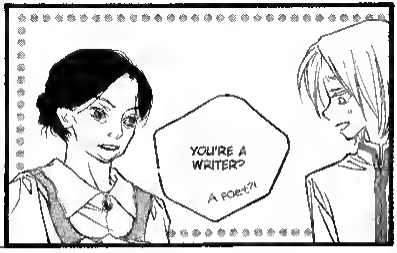
ACK! LOOKS LIKE IT WON'T WORK.
TAKE THIS. I'LL WALK FROM HERE
YOU'LL SEE A TOWN SOON. WALK CAREFULLY

I'M PLANNING ON STAYING HERE FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS
HEY!
HEY!



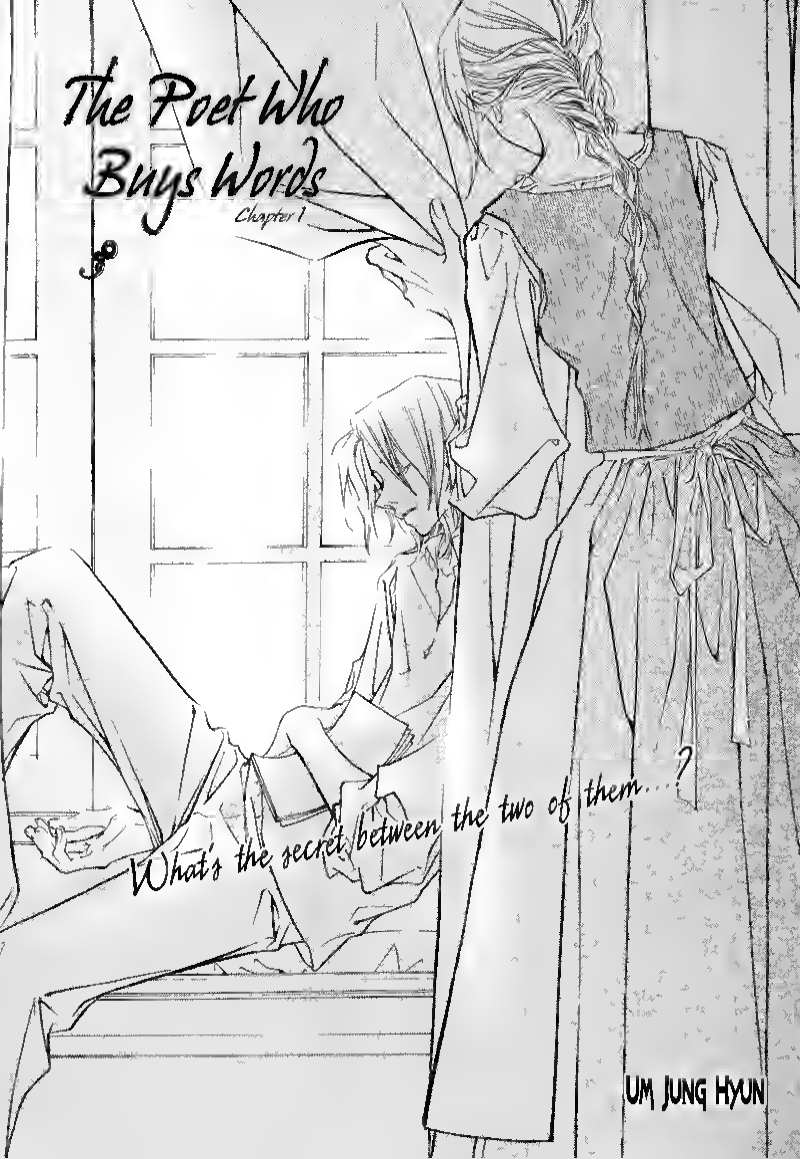
TAKE THIS GUEST TO ROOM THREE


UM... I'M A PERSON WHO WRITES POEMS, SO I'D LIKE A QUIET ROOM

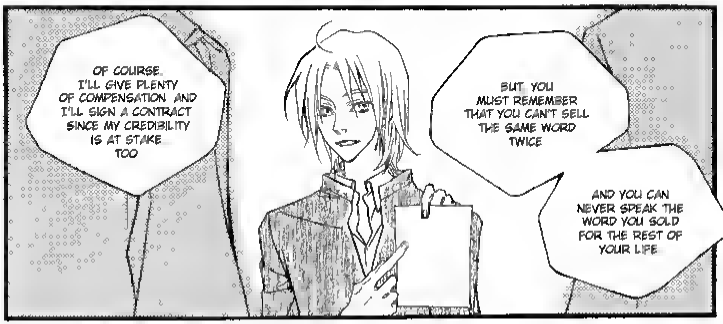

YOU'RE A WRITER?
A POET?!

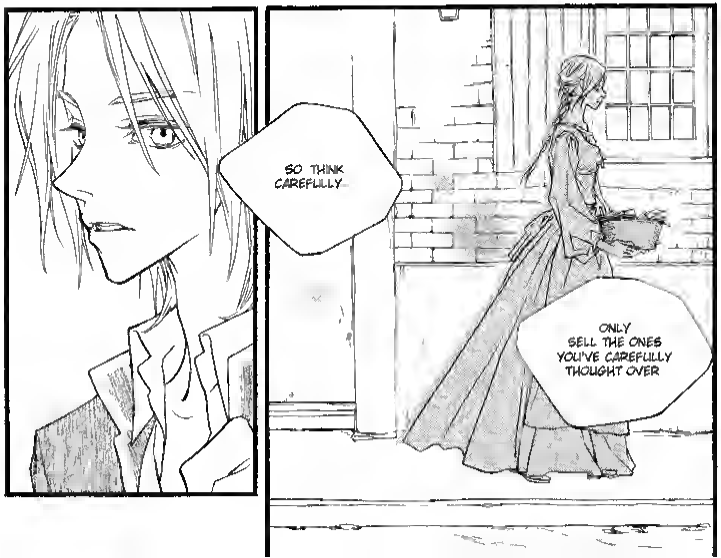
YOU'RE IN LUCK. THE ROOM WAS RECENTLY VACATED. LEAD HIM TO THE ATTIC.
IS THIS THE ROOM?
THANK YOU

IT STOPPED RAINING.

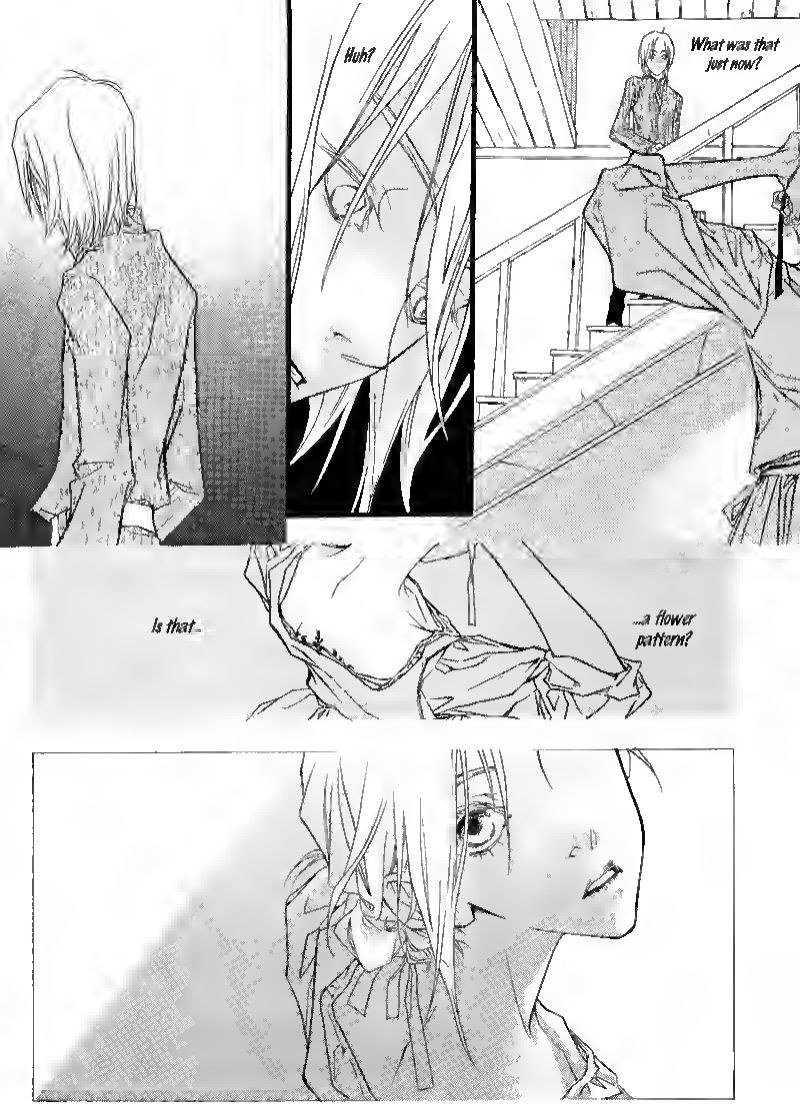

The Poet Who Buys Words
Chapter 1
What's the secret between the two of them...?
UM JUNG HYUN

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
IS HE CRAZY?
IT'S EXACTLY AS I SAID. I'LL GIVE YOU MONEY AND YOU'LL GIVE ME THE WORDS TO WRITE MY POEM. THAT'S MY JOB
SO, I NEED YOU ALL TO SELL ME WORDS YOU DON'T NEED


OF COURSE.. I'LL GIVE PLENTY OF COMPENSATION AND I'LL SIGN A CONTRACT SINCE MY CREDIBILITY IS AT STAKE TOO
BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN'T SELL THE SAME WORD TWICE
AND YOU CAN NEVER SPEAK THE WORD YOU SOLD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE


SO THINK CAREFULLY..
ONLY SELL THE ONES YOU'VE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OVER

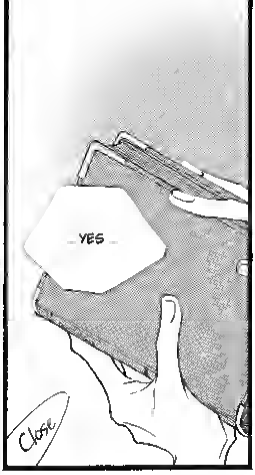
Rub Rub
I'M SORRY YOU'RE CLEANING I'LL JUST BE GOING PAST YOU

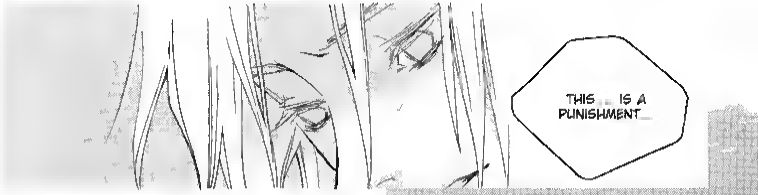

Huh?
What was that just now?
Is that...
...a flower pattern?

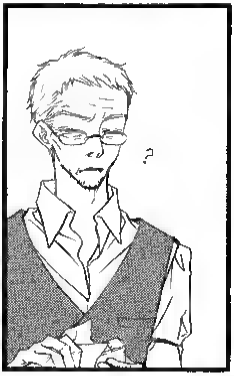
AH, LIM...
IS THERE A LIBRARY OR A BOOKSTORE IN THIS VILLAGE?
Ah, she never really said anything before... Maybe she's a mute?
THERE'S ONE NEAR THE VILLAGE ENTRANCE
AH .. TH-THANK YOU.

IS THAT YOU?
THE ONE TALKING RUBBISH ABOUT BUYING WORDS FROM VILLAGERS?

THEN, YOU CAN'T JUST WRITE POEMS?


YES
Close


THIS IS A PUNISHMENT


?

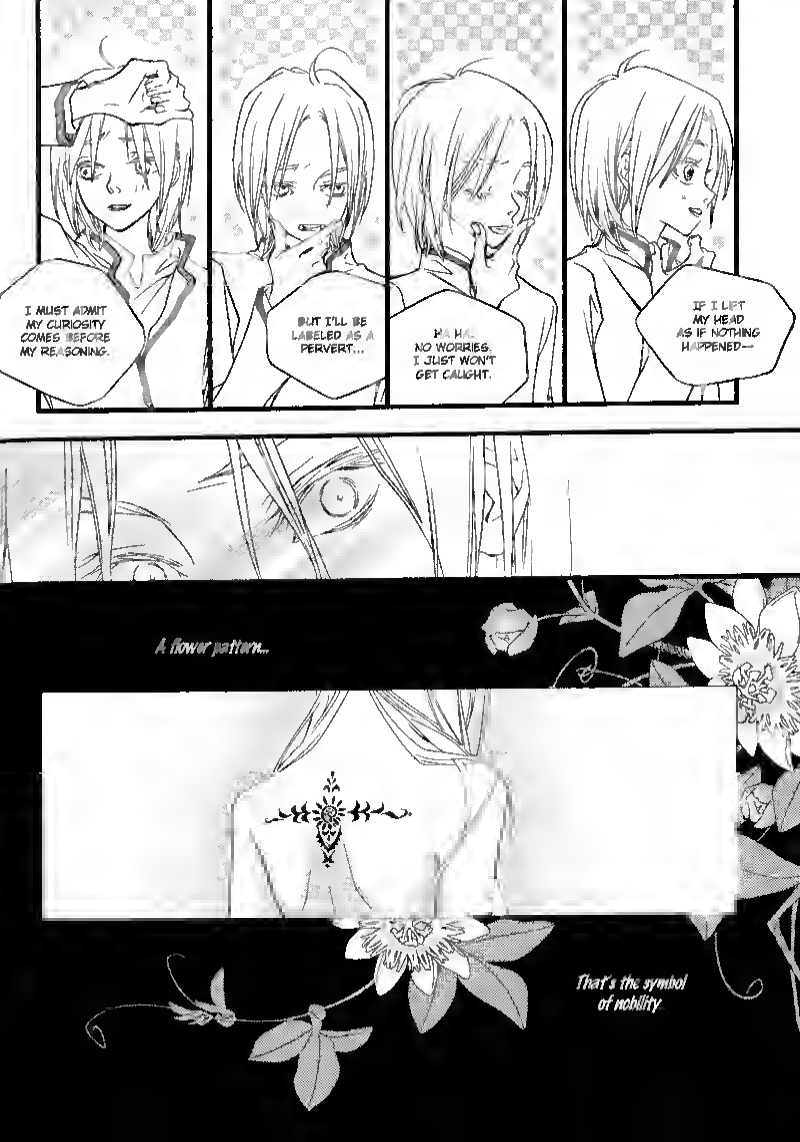
WHAT A STRANGE PERSON

Why is she in such pain?

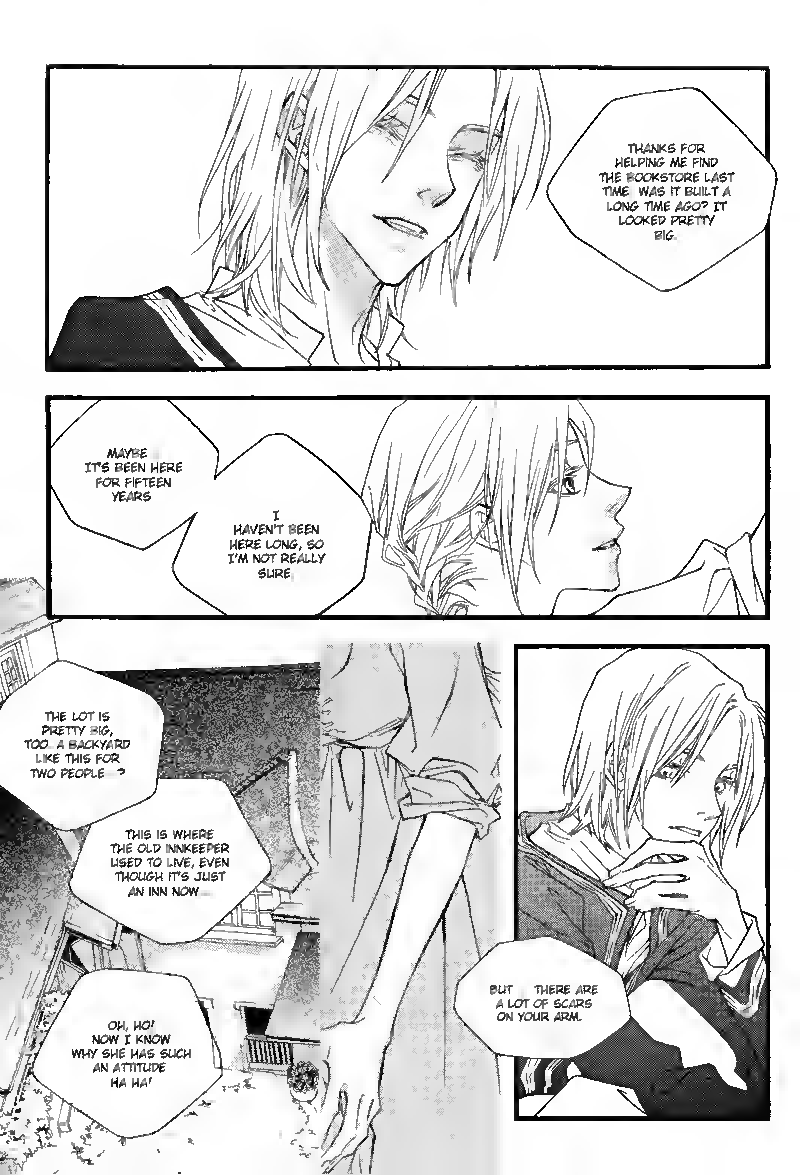
It reminds me of myself back in those days.

I GOT QUITE A FEW TODAY. THREE STANZAS... WELL, THAT'S MORE THAN USUAL.
Hm? The sound of water?

AHHH! WHAT AN AWKWARD SITUATION
MUST THINK STRAIGHT
I JUST PICTURED IT AGAIN
UGH I'M SO CURIOUS... WHAT SHOULD I DO?


I MUST ADMIT MY CURIOSITY COMES BEFORE MY REASONING.
BUT I'LL BE LABELED AS A PERVERT...
HA HA. NO WORRIES. I JUST WON'T GET CAUGHT.
IF I LIFT MY HEAD AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED—
A flower pattern...
That's the symbol of nobility.

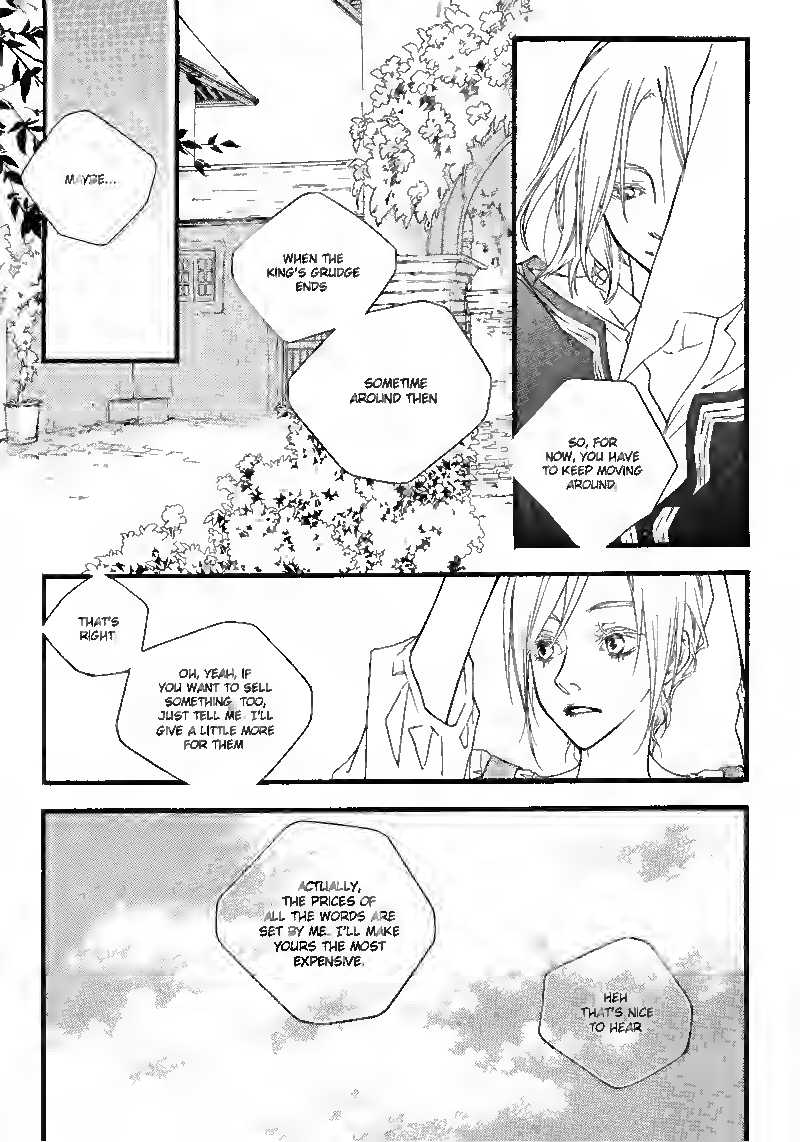
WOW FOR THERE TO BE SUCH A NICE PLACE HERE...
WANT ME TO HELP A BIT?
N-NO, IT'S OK


THANKS FOR HELPING ME FIND THE BOOKSTORE LAST TIME. WAS IT BUILT A LONG TIME AGO? IT LOOKED PRETTY BIG.
MAYBE IT'S BEEN HERE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS
I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG, SO I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
THE LOT IS PRETTY BIG, TOO. A BACKYARD LIKE THIS FOR TWO PEOPLE...?
THIS IS WHERE THE OLD INNKEEPER USED TO LIVE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST AN INN NOW.
OH, HO! NOW I KNOW WHY SHE HAS SUCH AN ATTITUDE HA HA!
BUT... THERE ARE A LOT OF SCARS ON YOUR ARM.

Eek! Mistake!!
AH... SORRY.
BUT, PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT ME?
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU BUY WORDS

YES, I'M A POET WHO PLAYS WORDS
I CAN USE AUXILIARY WORDS AND ADJECTIVES BY MYSELF,
BUT I CAN'T USE NOUNS NOT EVEN ONE WORD.
WHY...?
I'M BEING PUNISHED...
THIS IS THE RESULT OF VANITY...

THEN, CAN'T YOU QUIT?
NO, I CAN'T. IF I COULD, I WOULD HAVE A LONG TIME AGO.
IF I STOP WRITING POEMS, AS TIME PASSES, MY HANDS WILL DIE
MY FINGERS, MY TOES, MY LEGS AND ARMS — THEY'D TWIST AND BECOME RUINED
SO I WRITE POEMS AND GET THEM CHECKED BY THE KING AND RECEIVE PAYMENT.
AND WITH THAT MONEY, I BUY WORDS. AND WITH THOSE WORDS I WRITE A POEM. IT'S A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE
WHEN WILL IT END?


MAYBE...
WHEN THE KING'S GRUDGE ENDS
SOMETIME AROUND THEN
SO, FOR NOW, YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING AROUND
THAT'S RIGHT
OH, YEAH, IF YOU WANT TO SELL SOMETHING TOO, JUST TELL ME. I'LL GIVE A LITTLE MORE FOR THEM
ACTUALLY, THE PRICES OF ALL THE WORDS ARE SET BY ME. I'LL MAKE YOURS THE MOST EXPENSIVE.
HEH THAT'S NICE TO HEAR

LIKE THE RUMORS SAID, THIS HAS TO BE THE PLACE!
COME I-IN
I'D LIKE TO ASK...
IS THIS THE ONLY INN IN THIS VILLAGE?

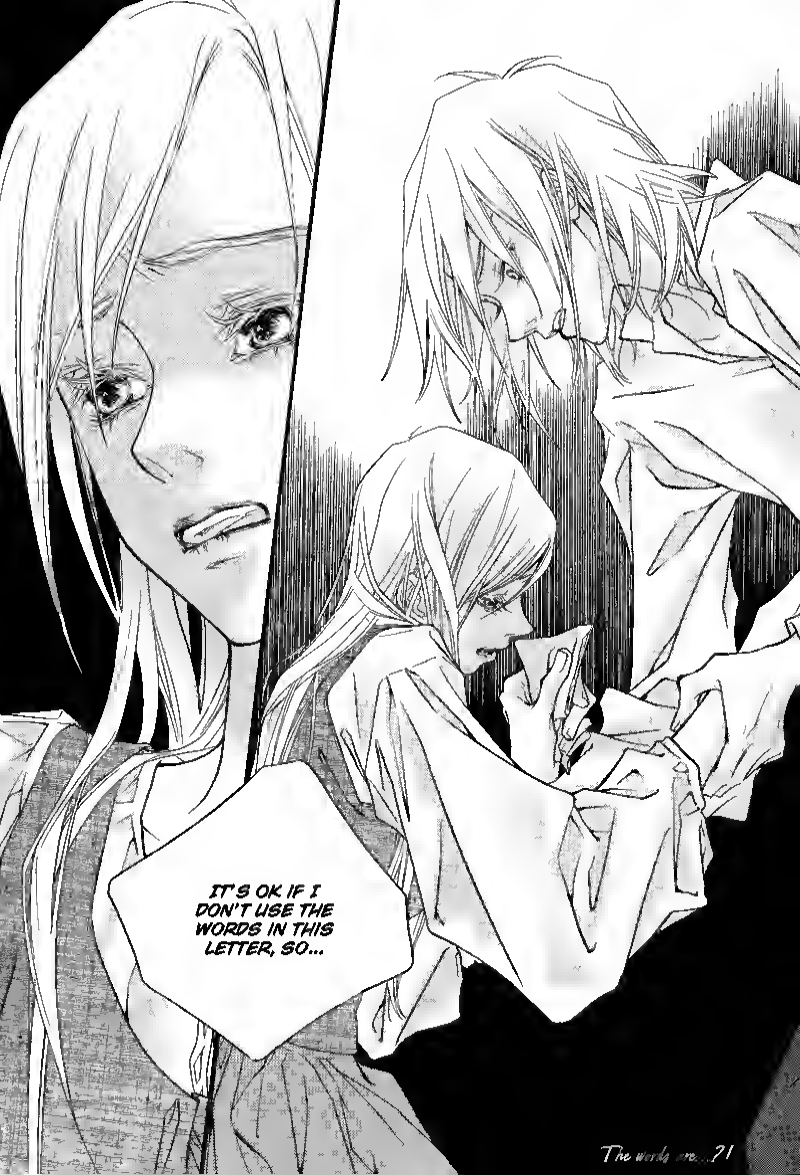
THAT'S RIGHT. ANYONE WHO STOPS HERE STAYS HERE.
WHY? YOU GUYS WANT TO STAY HERE, TOO?

IS IT A NEW GUEST?

Those clothes...
WHEN'S SHE GOING TO COME OUT?

EXCUSE ME, CUSTOMER!
ARE YOU THERE? COULD YOU ... OPEN THE DOOR?

PLEASE...
AH, YES... WHAT...?
...BUY THIS LETTER!


IT'S OK IF I DON'T USE THE WORDS IN THIS LETTER, SO...

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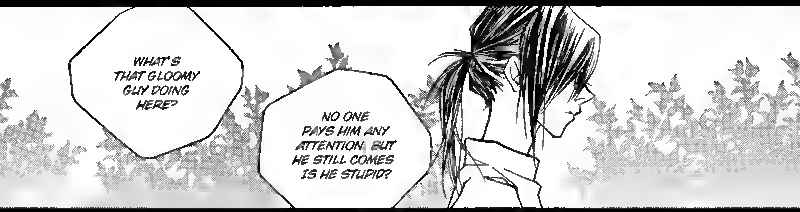
UM JUNG HYUN

The Poet Who Buys Words
Chapter 2
Danger is drawing near...
What's their fate?
UM JUNG HYUN

I AM ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR OUTSTANDING TALENT
ACCEPT THIS MEDAL.
I AM MOST HUMBLED, YOUR MAJESTY.

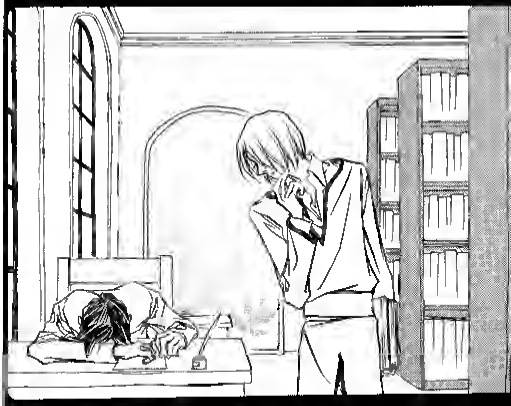
During this time, I showed false modesty to hide my arrogant nature.



I really didn't like that man.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE. HIS MAJESTY IS HOLDING A WRITING CONTEST.
ANYONE WHO HAS CONFIDENCE IN HIS OR HER WRITING SKILLS IS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN.
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'LL WIN
IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT IT, BUT WE CAN'T BEAT YOU.
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH
I didn't know if I could win because that man was there...

A long time ago... I read one of his poems.



His poem was unlike any other that I had read previously. The flawless theme and mysterious mood were enough to mesmerize the reader.

I was surprised that no one had recognized his talent before.

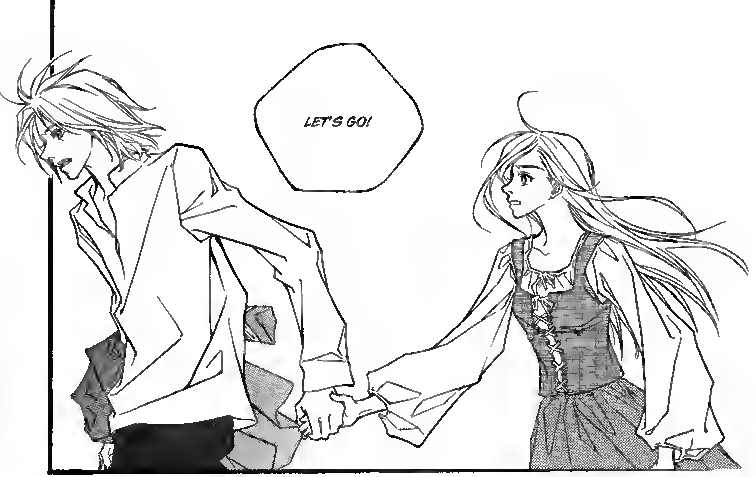
That man... I kept wondering what kind of poem he would write that time.
I was so distracted by those thoughts that I was unable to write a single verse of my own poem.
I became blinded by my desire to win, so...
...I finally gave in to the temptation.

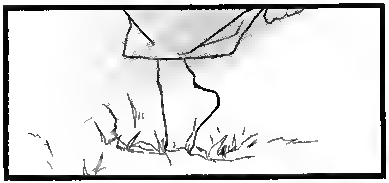
I'M SORRY, I'M TRULY SORRY...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO, BUT... I UNCONSCIOUSLY STOLE YOUR POEM
FORGIVE ME PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...
He remained silent and I felt even guiltier...
IS EVERYTHING OK?
YOUR FACE SEEMS PALE...
HOW DARE HE TRY TO FOOL ME!!
THUD

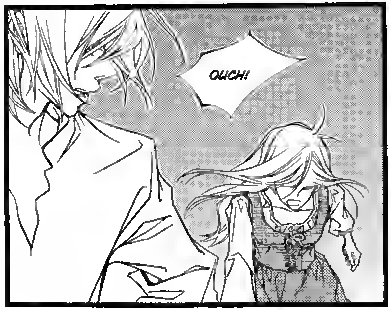
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO WRITE POEMS ON YOUR OWN. YOU WILL HAVE TO WRITE USING WORDS YOU PURCHASE FROM OTHERS
IF YOU DISOBEY ME ON THIS, YOUR FINGERS WILL BECOME TWISTED. THEN YOUR TOES, AND FINALLY YOUR LEGS. EVENTUALLY, YOU'LL BE UNABLE TO WALK.
ONLY MY MAGICIAN WILL BE ABLE TO LIFT THIS CURSE.
AND UNTIL YOUR CURSE IS REVOKED, YOU WILL CONTINUE WRITING POEMS IN THIS MANNER.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
ACTUALLY, I'M ON THE RUN DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
AND THOSE MEN ARE LOOKING FOR ME
I REALLY NEED THE MONEY SO PLEASE PLEASE BUY THIS LETTER

BUT IF I BUY THE WHOLE LETTER, MY WORK WILL BE ENTIRELY MADE UP OF YOUR WORDS IT WOULD BE AS THOUGH YOU WROTE MY POEM
SO I'LL BUY ONLY A FEW WORDS AFTER READING THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER.
THEN WAIT A MOMENT
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME FOR THAT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I HAVE TO CONTINUE LIVING WITHOUT USING ANY WORDS AT ALL, SO PLEASE...
CLICK


LET'S GO!




OUCH!

YOU GO AHEAD FIRST. YOU'LL SEE A FOREST IF YOU KEEP HEADING STRAIGHT.
HIDE BY THE ENTRANCE AND WAIT FOR ME.

PUT THESE SHOES ON YOUR FEET ARE A MESS
WHERE DID YOU
HA HA, I SORT OF GRABBED THEM SO THEY PROBABLY WON'T FIT WELL. BUT STILL.
WE SHOULD REST HERE FOR TODAY.
BUT, IF WE DON'T HURRY--
EVEN OUR PURSUERS NEED TO SLEEP DURING THE NIGHT.
SO, DON'T WORRY.

MAY I ASK YOU THE REASON BEHIND THEIR PURSUIT?
OH, BUT IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO
I WAS A SLAVE... WHO WAS SOLD TO A NOBLE FAMILY.
BUT, I RAN AWAY.

MY MASTER DIDN'T SPEAK MUCH BUT HE WAS A KIND MAN BUT SOMETIMES—
—HE WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO SERVE
YOU ESCAPED BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFICULT? EVEN SO TO SEND SO MANY PEOPLE AFTER JUST ONE ESCAPED SLAVE—
ACTUALLY

THE MASTER TOOK ME, AN ORPHAN WITH NO PLACE TO GO, TO BE HIS WIFE
HOWEVER, I LATER LEARNED THAT A SECRETIVE DEAL HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN MY MASTER AND MY FOSTER PARENTS.
AS TIME PASSED I REALIZED SOMETHING WAS WRONG
HE WAS A GENTLE PERSON NORMALLY, BUT THE SMALLEST THINGS MADE HIM SUDDENLY ANGRY. HE EVEN HIT ME AT TIMES
I HEARD THAT HIS FIRST WIFE WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY HIM.
MY MASTER WAS ACTUALLY A MENTALLY ILL PERSON AND I HAD BEEN SOLD TO BEAR HIM AN HEIR

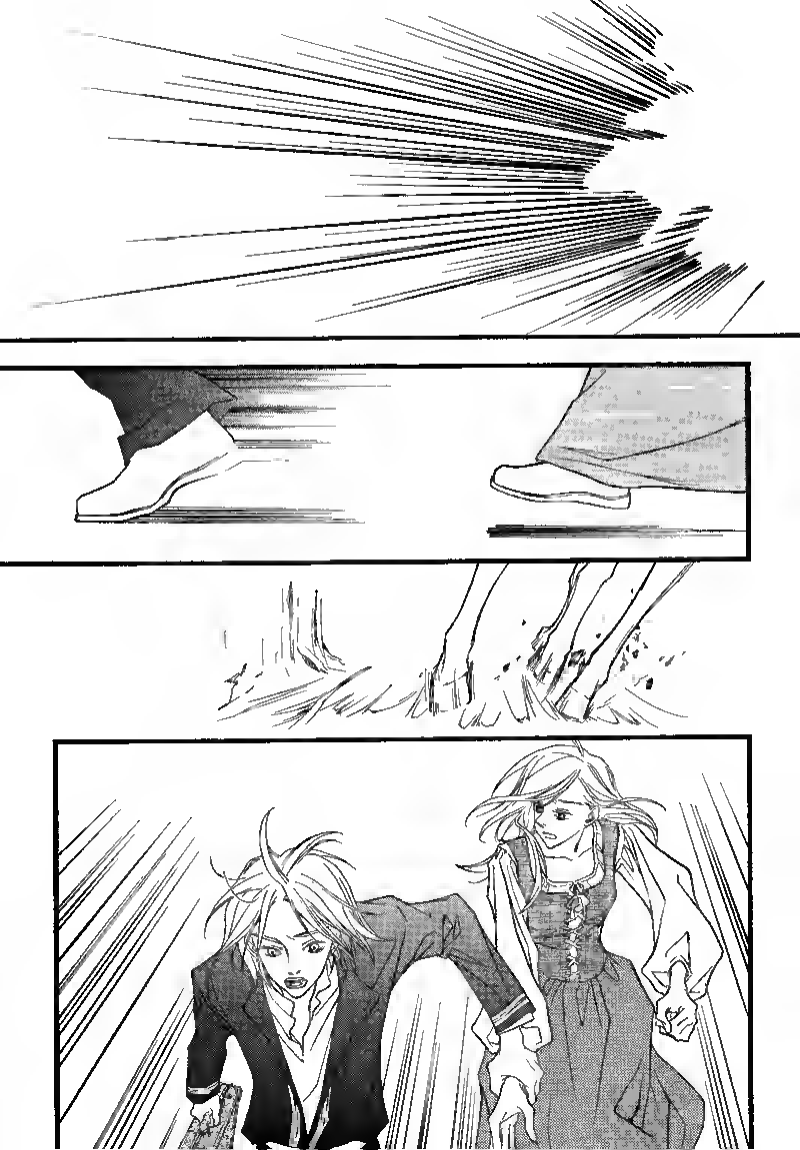
HE WAS OFTEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS.
HE TENDED TO ASSOCIATE WITH SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE,
AND AT NIGHT....
I TRIED TO ESCAPE ... SO MANY TIMES.
BUT I WAS ALWAYS CAPTURED BY HIS MEN.

WHEN THE DRUGS WORE OFF HE BECAME SUCH A PITIFUL MAN
I TRIED MY BEST TO COMFORT HIM, BUT
...HE WAS NOT SOMEONE I COULD HEAL THROUGH KINDNESS.

TO THIS EXTENT...
TAKE IT.
YOU'RE FREE NOW... LEAVE, BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND!

BUT ... WHY IS HE STILL...?
RUFFLE
ABOUT THIS

ARE YOU SURE YOU WISH TO SELL IT?
YES.
ALL RIGHT AS PROMISED, I'LL GIVE YOU THE BEST PRICE
ANYWAY WE SHOULD HURRY. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THOSE MEN...



THE STOMPING OF HORSES IS GETTING CLOSER!

At this rate, I'll get caught!
HALT!!

The Poet Who Buys Words

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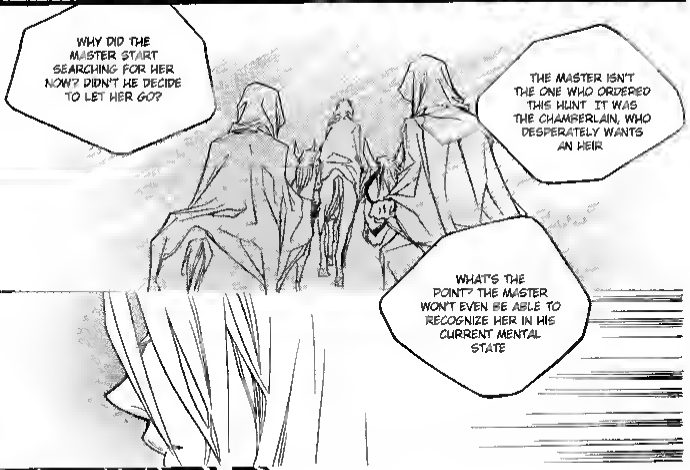
UM JUNG HYUN

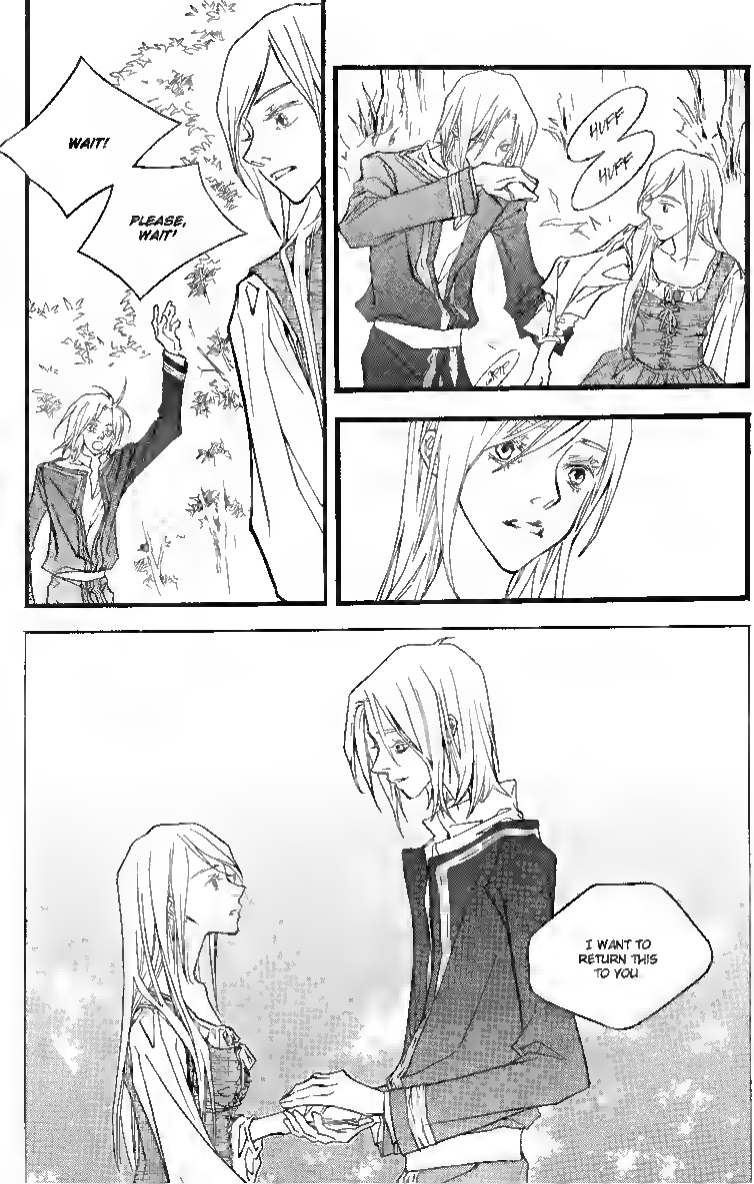
The Poet Who Buys Words
Chapter 3
EXCUSE ME DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE A LONG-HAIRED WOMAN PASS BY?
UM JUNG HYUN
GULP
NO, I DIDN'T
I'M IN A HURRY SO I'VE BEEN TOO PREOCCUPIED TO NOTICE ANYONE

Did he realize that it was a lie?
SHE MAY HAVE ALREADY LEFT TOWN
LET'S QUICKLY FINISH OUR SEARCH HERE AND MOVE ON TO THE NEIGHBORING TOWN
DAMN IT WHERE DID SHE GO?
COME ON, LET'S LEAVE!


WHY DID THE MASTER START SEARCHING FOR HER NOW? DIDN'T HE DECIDE TO LET HER GO?
THE MASTER ISN'T THE ONE WHO ORDERED THIS HUNT. IT WAS THE CHAMBERLAIN, WHO DESPERATELY WANTS AN HEIR
WHAT'S THE POINT? THE MASTER WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE HER IN HIS CURRENT MENTAL STATE

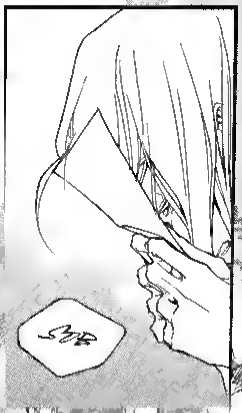
WHERE WILL YOU HEAD TO NOW?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALREADY?
YOU WOULDN'T COME WITH ME EVEN IF I ASKED YOU TO RIGHT?
ANYWAY, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT BUT STAY IN HIDING FOR A WHILE
I WISH YOU THE BEST THEN
TO YOU AS WELL
STOP
SHUTTER

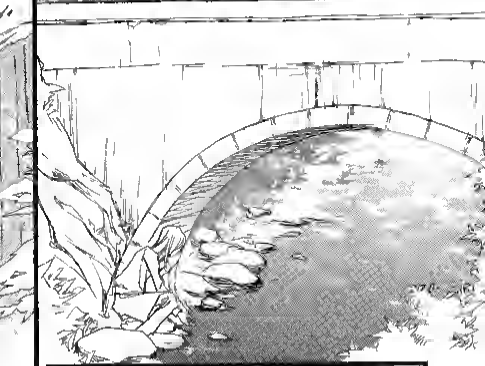
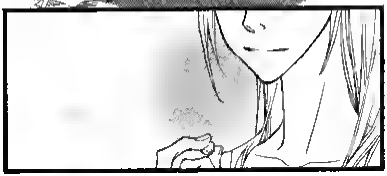
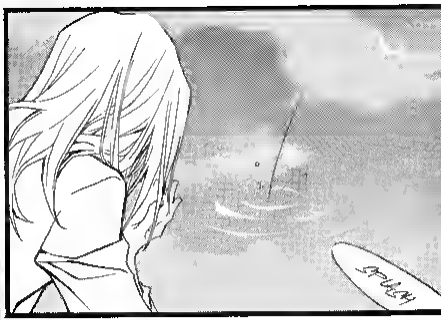

WAIT!
PLEASE, WAIT!
HUFF
HUFF
I WANT TO RETURN THIS TO YOU

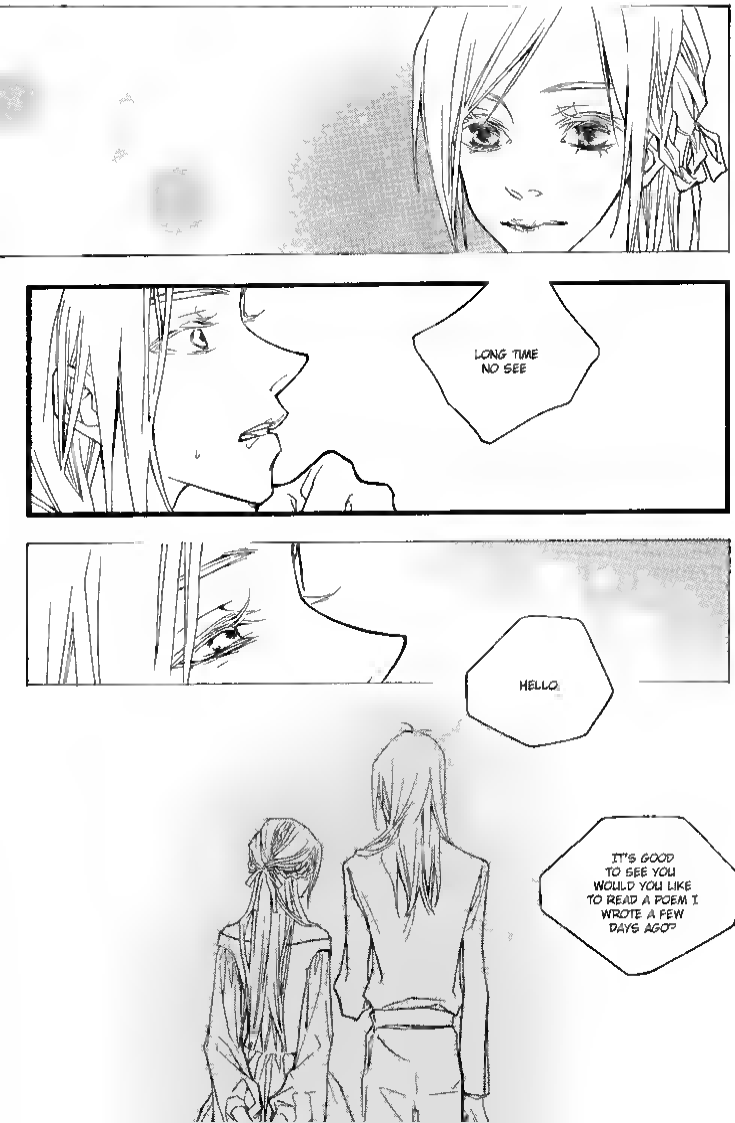
BUT—
TAKE OUT THE MONEY I GAVE YOU
SINCE I CANCELLED THE DEAL,
I'LL ONLY TAKE BACK A LITTLE
I REALLY DON'T NEED—
HAVE YOU READ THE LETTER?

READ IT.
WHEN MY CURSE IS LIFTED, I'M GOING TO WRITE POETRY IN MY HOMETOWN, CASEN.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SMALL, CASEN CAN HANDLE ONE OR TWO MORE CITIZENS COME VISIT ANYTIME!
OK!
THE WORDS IN THE LETTER I THINK YOU REALLY NEED THOSE WORDS RIGHT NOW.



One year later.


LONG TIME NO SEE
HELLO
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ A POEM I WROTE A FEW DAYS AGO?

crack
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS ALREADY. AREN'T YOU TIRED OF THIS YET?
I EVEN INSCRIBED THE MARK OF A NOBLE ON YOUR BACK, BUT YOU [illegible]LL

DO YOU STILL....

DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEAVE ME?

TOSS
SCRATCH
TAKE THIS AND LEAVE.

"If this is the only thing that I can do for you...
If these words are the last things I can say to you... please..."
"...be happy"
That was his sincerest wish...
The End